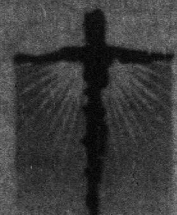


133:36
ms

#BXNRY *****CAR-RT LOT#C019
#0000 2910 91708
005 DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC 51082 P1
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401 TN 37203-3620
NASHVILLE

CE 1877
7, 2009
OL 133
No. 37

SEP 28 2009



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Offering spreads Gospel through camps



SOLEMN MOMENT — Around the bonfire held each Thursday evening of camp season at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, young men hear the Plan of Salvation presented by the camp pastor and pray for guidance as they make spiritual decisions that include professions of faith, rededications, and surrenders to full-time Christian service. Mississippi Baptists' two encampments, Central Hills Retreat and Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, are funded in part by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

After 11 successful weeks of camp that saw more than 2,700 people pass through the front gate of Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, manager Jim Ray is ready for a break — but not before he thanks Mississippi Baptists for their support this year through Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

"We simply couldn't have camp without it," he said. "Other camps don't have the advantage we have, because we have the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering."

Central Hills Retreat is one of a pair of Mississippi Baptist encampments. The other is Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton. A third facility, Gulfshore Assembly in Harrison County near Pass Christian, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and has been permanently closed.

Ray pointed out that Christian encampments have not escaped the economic downturn currently gripping the country.

"The Christian Camp and Conference Association estimates that as many as ten percent of their members may have to close in the near future, due to the economic situation. The big advantage that the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering gives us is that we know we're going to be able to open next year and touch the lives of many more young people."

"When you're not worried about raising money just to stay open, you can plan quality camps. We're thriving, and that can't be said about all camps these days."

Central Hills Retreat and Garaywa Camp and Conference Center are fully self-contained encampments with extensive dining accommodations, aquatic and crafts programs, and special times set aside for Bible study and presentation of the Gospel. Central Hills Retreat also has a large lake, rifle range, and equine facilities.

Both encampments operate year round and are open to adult Christian groups as well as youth events.

The Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering emphasis occurs each year during the month of September. The offering is named in honor of Margaret McRae Lackey, the first full-time director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

Lackey is remembered for her passion for reaching Mississippi for Jesus. She often spoke of the untouched multitudes in Mississippi "whose souls are crying silently but know not for what they are crying."

The goal for the 2009 Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering is \$2,150,000. Of that amount, \$800,000 is dedicated to Central Hills Retreat and Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. Other ministries

supported by gifts to the offering include:

- Associational Mission Projects: \$200,000.
- Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps: \$30,000.
- New Church Starts: \$280,000.
- Criminal Justice Ministries: \$50,000.
- Cross Cultural Outreach: \$50,000.
- Disaster Relief: \$60,000.
- College and University Outreach: \$50,000.
- Language Ministry: \$10,000.
- Pastoral Benevolence: \$20,000.
- Volunteer Missionary Assistance: \$600,000.

Ray believes the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering is truly a blessing. "It's part of the mechanism God has designed to support Kingdom work in Mississippi. It's the fuel that enables Central Hills Retreat to reach people for Christ, and we're grateful for it."

For more information on the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, contact Erica Harms in the Mission Strategy Division of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3315 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 315. E-mail: eharms@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Marcus Bowers, Brandon
Jimmy McFatter, Amory
Billie Buckley, Petal
James Bates, Gulfport
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 133 • NUMBER 37
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

A little fairness, please

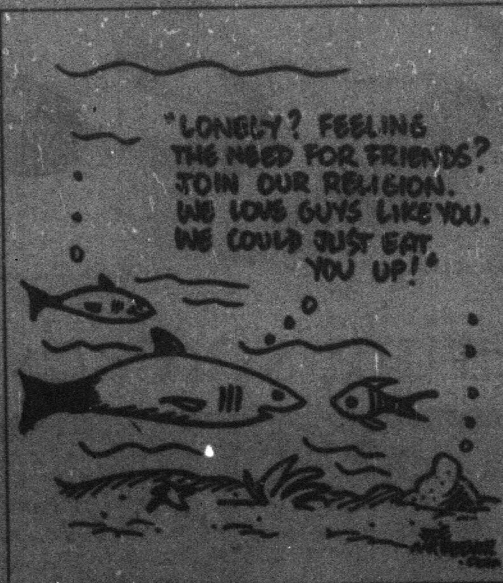
On September 1 of this year, U.S. President Barack Obama feted Muslims during an iftar at The White House. An iftar is the meal that celebrates the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Present at the affair were a number of prominent Muslims, including the two Muslim members of Congress, as well as non-Muslims such as U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and several other members of the President's cabinet.

It wasn't the first iftar to be held at The White House. Former President Bill Clinton, a Democrat and Southern Baptist, was the first to host an iftar at The White House. Former President George W. Bush, a Republican and Methodist, continued the dinner during his lengthy tenure in The White House and moved it toward becoming a tradition.

Politicians being politicians, it's not all that unusual to watch the occupants of The White House pander for votes from groups they feel are important. No doubt there have been many dinners held at The White House for individuals and groups that Christians would find distasteful, hosted by Presidents for whom we may or may not have voted.

In addition, our Constitution's Bill of Rights does not define this country as a Christian nation but rather guarantees freedom of religion. A President can argue in favor of hosting such dinners and other events because our founding documents do not favor one religion over another.

That's the rub. While President Obama



was quick to extol the virtues of Islam at his iftar, he virtually ignored the National Day of Prayer just a few weeks earlier when he quietly issued a milquetoast proclamation and then went about his business. There was no public ceremony at all.

It appeared to a lot of Christians that we got snubbed. "The contribution of Muslims to the United States are too long to catalog because Muslims are so interwoven into the fabric of our communities and our country," Obama said at his iftar, which the news media were allowed to cover — but where was the equivalent public ceremony on the National Day of Prayer congratulating Christians on their contributions to America?

As a child, Obama attended a madrassa

— sort of a combination of elementary school and Islamic seminary — in Indonesia. His father and stepfather were Muslims. He identifies Christianity as his personal faith, but he undoubtedly has a greater appreciation for the Islamic religion than do many Americans.

He's President of all the people, however, and some evenhandedness is called for. His reticence on the National Day of Prayer was quickly noted by the enemies of the faith in their never-ending effort to blast Christianity. He gave them plenty of ammunition.

"It's not his job to tell people to pray," David Silverman, national spokesperson for the organization American Atheists, told Cable News Network (CNN). "We are very happy he did away with the George W. Bush-era celebrations and party, but we wish he wouldn't do it at all. ...When church and state are separate, separate is separate," he said.

Silverman's lecture on church and state apparently did not include observance of the holy days of Islam, however. It seems only Christians should mute their faith.

These are trying times for Christians in America, where the ubiquitous entertainment media constantly paint us as crooks, predators, drunks, liars, and demented, immoral characters of all types. Christ is routinely diminished, recently being depicted in a container of urine under the banner of "art."

We should already be on our knees praying for this country. We're in a mess. We know Jesus is the only answer, and we should already be telling the Good News to a lost world before it's too late for them.

We're trying, but in the meantime, a little fairness from our leaders would be nice.

GUEST OPINION:



My, how robots have changed

By Phil Boatwright
Kansas City, Ks.

Peckinpah gunned down a Wild Bunch in slo-mo in the summer of 1969.

Forty-some years later, it seems almost impossible to find family entertainment from major studios that doesn't bombard the audience with violent imagery, sexuality, and language.

If you take a comedy movie from every decade, you'll see the change in sensibilities both in the people making movies and those attending. The same goes for horror flicks or romantic dramas or even westerns, but the genre most affected by excess is the sci-fi action adventure. If there are giant robots from space warring each other on our tiny planet, you can rest assured, it's going to be fast, furious and foul-tongued.

Compare the presentation of robots from space:

— Forbidden Planet (1956). This '50s sci-fi adventure borrowed themes of profundity

from Shakespeare's The Tempest, having space explorers landing on a planet dominated by one man and an unknown, deadly force. Robbie the Robot made his first appearance. Though campy, it was fun, inventive, and engrossing. It even contained two lines showing a belief in and respect for God.

— Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009). This one has little to do with profound themes. It's about CGI and endless mayhem. It has more than 30 curse words and is loaded with sexuality. Since it aims at the 14-year-old in every male, the screenplay also incorporates crudity masking as humor.

As the old story goes, if you place a frog in boiling water, he'll jump out. If you place him in room-temperature liquid, slowly raising the heat level, he'll remain until he, ahem, croaks. Over the past several

decades, the entertainment media has simmered society in a stew of moral ambiguity, excusing their offenses with "Hey, it's only a movie." Like that poor frog, we Christians have adjusted ourselves to the same numbing content as everyone else.

So what do we do? More important than keeping the world's perspective out of our kids' heads is to get biblical instruction in. Allow me to pass along something that has influenced my spiritual growth.

When I was about eight, my parents rededicated themselves to Christ. Bible study and prayer soon became a part of our lives. Before Dad went to work, we began our day by reading Scripture and kneeling in prayer. When a father heads such a regimen, it drives home a lasting message to his children. (Proverbs 22:6.) Knowing God's Word will help us see through any ungodly standards that creep into our daily lives.

Most likely, we aren't going to change Hollywood. The question is, will Hollywood change us?

Boatwright is an entertainment media critic and reviews films from a Christian perspective. He is the author of *Movies: The Good, The Bad, and the Really, Really Bad*. For details on the book, visit previewonline.org. Boatwright's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Rep. - plan condones, increases abortions

WASHINGTON (BP) — The main health care proposal in the U.S. House of Representatives would lead to an increase in the number of abortions, directly conflicting with one of U.S. President Barack Obama's campaign goals, a pro-life Congressman from New Jersey believes.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., says the number of abortions would go up under the House plan because it would pay to terminate pregnancies, not only through the government-run public option but also through the federal subsidizing of private plans.

"We will see more abortions," Smith said Sept. 10 during a Family Research Council (FRC) Action webcast about the health care debate. "For a man who argues he wants to see a reduction of abortions, nothing could be further from the truth."

Said FRC President Tony Perkins, who is no relation to William Perkins, editor of The

Baptist Record, "It's only common sense that when the government pays for something it's going to get more of it."

Smith expressed frustration that Obama's public statement about abortion during his Sept. 9 address to Congress and the nation apparently conflicts with the Democratic-backed bills. During that speech Obama said under his plan "no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions," when in fact the House bill (H.R. 3200) explicitly covers abortion and details how it will be funded.

Supporters of the house bill argue that federal dollars won't be funding abortion because, under an amendment by pro-abortion Rep. Lois Capps, D-Cal., abortions in a public option would be funded only by enrollees' premiums and private insurance companies that receive federal money would be forced to segregate their internal accounts and pay for any abortions without federal subsidies.

Smith previously called the amendment "[one] of the most deceptive amendments I have ever seen." The amendment was passed only after other amendments that explicitly excluded abortion from the plan were defeated.

"The president is very adept, very adroit, at the art of misdirection, saying one thing that may have a kernel of truth in it while the larger untruth remains," he said. "...After a while the American people ought to be much angered by the deception game. Be for or against [federal abortion funding], but don't play these games."

A new poll released Thursday suggests that Americans oppose abortion funding in the health care plan. By a 55-42% margin, adults agreed with the statement, "Whatever my opinion on the issue, I think it would be wrong for the government to pay for abortions."

By a 52-44% margin, they also agreed that "I do not

want the government to help fund health care plans that fund abortions."

Fifty-eight percent disagreed and 38% agreed with this statement: "If the government is going to make a public health plan available for all Americans it has an obligation to provide abortion services under that plan."

On a related matter, 43% said they would be less likely to support a health care plan if the government paid for abortions. Eight percent said it would make them more likely to support a health care plan, and 46% said it would make no difference.

The poll of 800 registered voters was conducted Aug. 30-Sept. 1 by Public Opinion Strategies on behalf of the Susan B. Anthony List, a pro-life organization. The complete poll is available online at <http://bit.ly/2piud>.

For a Q&A about abortion and the health care bill, visit www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=31123.

Federal agency approves generic abortion drug

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Another "morning-after" pill with abortion-causing effects will soon be for sale in stores. Watson Laboratories has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) to market a generic version of Plan B, a post-conception "emergency contraceptive," as it is commonly known, that can cause an abortion.

The new generic drug will be marketed under the name, Next Choice. Like Plan B, it

will be available for purchase without a prescription for women 17 years of age and older and for prescription use by girls younger than 17.

Drug regimens that cause a woman to abort a baby without surgery are called abortifacients. Like Plan B, the artificial hormones in Next Choice can work to prevent conception by controlling ovulation in a female. For the purposes of abortion, however, Plan B and Next choice can also act after conception to block implantation of a tiny, fertilized embryo in the uterine wall, thereby causing an abortion.

The drug regimen for the "morning-after" pill is basically a heavier dose of hormone-laced birth control pills. Under the regimen, a woman takes two pills within 72 hours of sexual intercourse and another dose 12 hours later. The long-term effects of those heavier doses of hormones, especially on teenagers, is not known.

Plan B, which is produced by the Duramed division of Barr Pharmaceuticals, had American

sales of \$135 million in the 12-month period ending June 30. The FDA added its approval of Watson Laboratories' Next Choice on Aug. 28.

When the FDA approved the non-prescription use of Plan B in 2006, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, described it as a "sad day for America."

"Allowing drugs with such powerful physiological and emotional effects to be sold over the counter to adults without a prescription will have significant consequences, none of them good," Land said.

"It will certainly result in the pharmacological, spontaneous abortion of large numbers of babies, who will be conceived but known only to God... This decision will lead to increased rates of sexual activity for younger women outside of wedlock, resulting in physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences, including increased rates of sexually transmitted diseases, against which Plan B offers no protection," he said.

New NIV coming

PALOS HEIGHTS, IL (BP) — A revision of the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible will be available in 2011, according to a joint announcement Sept. 1 by Zondervan, Biblica, and the Committee on Bible Translation. The revision will mark the first complete update of the NIV since 1984. Zondervan also said the new translation's publication will mark the end of the TNIV, the controversial version released in full in 2005 with gender-neutral language. "As time passes and English changes, the NIV is becoming increasingly dated," Keith Danby, global president of Biblica, formerly the International Bible Society and Send the Light, said during a news conference at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL, site of the first meeting of the Committee on Bible Translation (CBT) in 1965. "The NIV charter anticipated this, and it obliges us to respond. If we want to maintain the NIV as a Bible that English speakers around the world can understand, we have to listen to and respect the vocabulary they are using today," Danby said. A 15-member independent panel of translators from various denominations and different parts of the world, the CBT, a self-perpetuating committee, was formed for the purpose of creating and revising the NIV. Biblica is the translation sponsor and copyright holder of the NIV, and Zondervan is the publisher. The first version of the NIV was released in 1978, and since then it has become the most popular modern English Bible translation in the world, with more than 300 million copies. "Since the NIV was first published in 1978, English has become the primary international language of commerce and communication," said CBT chairman Douglas Moo. "As a consequence, the pace of change in English usage has accelerated. This reality imposes on us greater responsibility to make sure that the NIV changes with it in order to maximize understanding. As a committee, our response to this challenge has always been to follow the example of the original Bible writers who wrote in forms of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek that reflected the language spoken by the ordinary working people of their day," Moo said. "Just as the New Testament is written in 'Koine' or 'common' Greek, our aim with the NIV Bible is and always has been to translate the Bible into what you might call 'Koine' or 'common' English."

Looking back

10 years ago

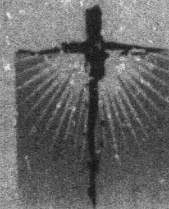
Wedgwood Church, Fort Worth, reclaims its sanctuary after the September 15 shooting which killed eight and wounded seven, after bloodstained pews and carpet and broken windows were replaced.

20 years ago

Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Church, Tyler, Tex., reverses himself and accepts the election as president of the Annuity Board. Powell was first offered the position in July and rejected it. Finding no peace in that decision, he approached the search committee for reconsideration.

30 years ago

Mrs. O.M. Jones, manager of the Baptist Book Store, Jackson, receives a 25-year service award from the Baptist Sunday School Board.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

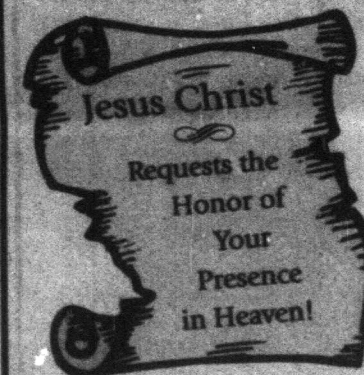
THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

VOL. 133

No. 37



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHET

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

B KCS JXYP SPI, YGCV
DBLTMBKT OPS KGCDD
HT BX GTCZTX PZTF
PXT KBXXTF YGCV
FTUTXYTYG, EPFT YGCV
PZTF XBXTYS CXR XBXT
OJKY UTEKPKK, MGBAG
XTTR XP FTUTXYCXAT.

DJLT IBIYTTX: KTZTX

Clue: J = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Sixteen: Sixteen

FORGIVENESS IS A DECISION

It could be said that the Bible is a manual on forgiveness. Of course, it is much more than that. The reality in life is that two of the happiest days you can ever experience are the day you come to know the forgiveness of God, and a second day that may reoccur at various times with various events — the day when you offer forgiveness to someone else. Both components are major factors in our spiritual development. Sadly, most of us are more apt to accept the forgiveness of God than to offer forgiveness to others.

Failure to forgive has serious and ongoing consequences that often we never recognize. Forgiveness at its simplest and base level means to remove. It is the removal of whatever it is that stands as a barrier between us. As we think about God forgiving us, it is Him literally taking our sin, the barrier between us and God, removing it by the substitutionary work of Jesus on the cross and treating us with grace and love. When that is applied in our lives to our relationships with others, it is a decision to be made by which we will set aside the issue. We let go of the hurt and burden and treat the person with grace and love. What are the consequences if we hold on to the wrong that has been done and not let it be removed?

One of the consequences is that it will sour your soul. Most of the time it seems to me that people do not even realize that they are turning into sour, ill-spirited, and hostile people. They really did not set out for that to happen. They were just determined to hold on to the goriness of their grief. Studies have revealed a fascinating thing. They show that, generally speaking, people who are able or at least willing to forgive and move on are happier people than those who are determined to

hold on to their pain. No doubt, from time to time all of us have run into people whose souls were soured, but you know it is an interesting thing that it seems as though they do not realize that it has happened to them — especially when it happens to us and we do not see it in ourselves. The reason for that is understandable since we more often than not feel justified in holding our angry position. That may be fine, but the other part of that is it is souring your soul.

A second thing that happens when we will not forgive is that it steals our strength. Again, most of the time you do not even recognize that it is happening, but in every regard unforgiveness will rob you of some measure of strength. Physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, it will drain you. Just think about the consequences of this. One medical study showed that people who can forgive and will forgive are at lower risk of having heart disease. Another study was revealing in that people who were determined to hold on to their hurts were three times more likely to be depressed. For some people it seems to be just totally debilitating. I have actually known people who came to the place where they could not get up and go on and function in

ACKERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a fulltime staff position serving as Minister of Youth and Music. Please send resumes to Dr. Wayne McLeod, P.O. Box 834, Ackerman, MS 39735. BAPTIST CHURCH IN LAUDERDALE County is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. Send resume to Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 3231, Meridian MS 39305.

FBC, BOYLE, MS IS SEEKING resumes for a Pastor to lead our church according to God's will. Qualifications will be those set forth in the New Testament 1 Timothy 3. Submittal deadline is Sept. 30. Please forward resume to: FBC Boyle c/o PSC, P.O. Box 218, Boyle, MS 38730.

PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a part-time minister of music for worship services and adult choir. Please forward resume to the: PBC search committee, attention: Due McKinion, PO Box 876, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, email: due@rankincounty.org.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF STUDENTS for growing youth ministry. Must be God-focused, visionary, motivated. Willing to work into full-time position in near future. Students also welcome to apply. Submit resume to Johns Baptist Church Youth Search, 5413 Highway 18, Brandon, MS 39042.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC for contemporary praise and worship with band and singers. Willing to work into full-time position. Students also welcome to apply. Submit resume to Johns Baptist Church Music Search, 5413 Highway 18, Brandon, MS 39042.

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

their work or in their life in general all because they could not let it go. It will steal our strength.

One other consequence I would point out is that it stymies your step. By that, I am simply pointing out the truth that unforgiveness will mire you in the moment. It will grip you in the clutches of time so that you cannot advance. If you cannot forgive, it is almost impossible to take any steps in your spiritual growth. If you cannot forgive, your life and the lives of those around you will be held back to some degree.

So why do we not forgive and thereby be sweetened, strengthened, and take steps with the Lord? There are numerous reasons why people do not and cannot forgive. Oftentimes they have forgotten that they too are sinners and have been in need of forgiveness. Sometimes they feel as though to forgive will mean that they are condoning the

action of the person. Sometimes they even think that to forgive is a sign of weakness in their own life. That is hardly the case, for to forgive may take the greatest courage, strength, and demonstration of love ever shown. Though I have never met someone who would actually admit this, I think there are people who enjoy nursing their wounds and perpetuating their hate and hostility. They may become accustomed to the daily hurt. It gets so much attention that they display it in their lives to the point there would be a great vacuum left if they let it go.

The bottom line is the fact that God loved you so much that He took all of the barriers away, and wrapped you up in His care. He in turn asks us to go and do likewise. No doubt, you may have been through disappointment, betrayal, deception, misrepresentation, lies, or attacks. When all of those things culminated in the life of Jesus at the cross, He was quick to say in the very first words recorded from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." The sooner we forgive, the sooner we can live.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Preaching Fourth Annual Conference September 22-23, 2009

Dr. David Allen
Dean of the School of
Theology
Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Dr. Ted Traylor
Pastor
Olive Baptist Church
Pensacola, FL

Dr. Robert Pitman
Dean, Adrian Rogers
Center for Biblical
Preaching/Evangelist
Muscle Shoals, AL

Dr. Mac Brunson
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Jacksonville, FL

Dr. Jere Phillips
Director of Extensions/
Distance Learning
MABTS

Mrs. Joyce Rogers
Teaching Fellow
Adrian Rogers Center
for
Biblical Preaching

Rev. Terry Easley
Music and Worship
Leader/Assoc. Pastor
of Music/Faith Baptist
Church/Bartlett, TN

Cost: \$35.00 per person • \$55.00 per couple
(includes lunch and conference materials)

For further information, contact: Dr. Tim Seal
Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary
2095 Appling Road • Cordova, Tennessee 38016
901.751.8453 • 800.968.4508
Register on line at: www.mabts.edu

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, McMinnville, TN, is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor, called by the Holy Spirit, who loves God, loves people, and, above all, has a passion for Christ. Resume and DVD of recent sermon required. Send to FBC, 403 N. Spring St., McMinnville, TN 37110. Deadline for acceptance of resume and DVD is Oct. 31.

29 PASSENGER '87 F350 DIESEL. \$2,500. 87K. Nice, needs transmission repair. 601-831-7700 or 662-539-0710.

CLARK AUCTIONS CAN SELL YOUR real estate, business or personal estate items in 30 days. Nick Clark, R.E. Broker/Auctioneer, 601-317-2536, #1145.

RENT HOUSE. COMPLETELY RENOVATED. Ideal for Christian couple or singles. No teenagers. \$675/mo. 601-354-1134.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners. STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970.

GET AWAY TO BETSY'S LIK' CABIN AT Lake Lincoln State Park, Wesson, Ms. is fully equipped and will sleep 12. \$50.00 a night. Weekends are \$60.00 a night. 601-643-8817 or 601-940-6841.

FOR BEST RATES ON: MEDICARE supplements, Major Medical & Group Health Insurance plans as well as home and auto. Call Turner Insurance, 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

CONDO IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT. 2 bedrm, 2 bath, full kitchen, walking distance to parkway. \$70.00/night. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-922-0101/0141. Email pdw4760@att.net.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 877-477-1899.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kink-glas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, 800-728-8291.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE: 3.9 state to state, 3.9 in state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-800-329-2088 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

Practical Principles for Christian Living



Speaking and living the truth in love

By Rob Chambers
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Commission



Chambers

While in high school my typing teacher had her students type repeatedly the following phrase: "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." The general emphasis of this phrase is to call people to action. It is a summons that affords people the opportunity to step forward and prove their goodness and loyalty.

Does the Bible issue a similar summons for Christians to rise up and demonstrate their goodness and loyalty? Have Christians received the call to exemplify, speak, and preserve truth as it relates to moral issues beyond the confines of the church?

Jesus, in Matt 5:13-16, called his followers to preserve what is true and to live exemplary lives of the Christian faith. Furthermore, Jesus told them to go, without bias, and make disciples of people from every nation and to teach them to do everything he had taught them (Matt 28:18-20).

Acts 17 records Paul fleshing out what Jesus has called all believers to do. In this chapter, Paul seeks to make disciples of non-believers in Athens. Paul reasons with them, dispelling the myth that there

are many gods, and reasserts that the Hebrew God is the sole creator of everything. As a result, many of them believed in God.

Now is the time for all Christians to speak the truth in love by teaching and declaring that there is one God and that the only way to heaven is through Christ. Christians are to also speak the truth in love that God abhors sin, such as abortion, homosexuality, gluttony, adultery, and drunkenness. Also, now is the time for all Christians to live the truth in love by feeding those who hunger, ministering to those considering abortion, and counseling those in bondage to sexual immorality, for example.

Unfortunately, a new day has been dawning in America where a Christian, public witness is vigorously opposed. The rising sun of secularism and socialism in and around the current political climate seeks to roast the Christian faith.

But don't be fooled that Mississippi is a giant shade tree providing shelter

from such a secular, anti-Christian machine. Three recent incidents in Mississippi support this.

First is the quest for normalizing sinful, homosexual behavior by the church. According to news media accounts, the MS United Methodist Conference in Jackson gave credence to two homosexual women who unashamedly spoke of their same-sex "relationship" before conferees. The report also stated that the same-sex couple also encouraged other churches, like theirs at Parkway Hills Methodist in Madison, to welcome unrepentant, same-sex couples living in the sin of homosexuality.

The Bible, however, does not excuse Christians from reaching out to those in bondage to the sin of homosexuality. The church's communication on this must come across in a way that their love for the sinner is much greater than their hatred of their sin. The church must do this without condoning sinful behavior.

The second incident involves a youth minister in central Mississippi who sought to reserve a city park for a "See You at the Pole" youth rally. It was reported that a city official told the youth minister the city park could be used for the event as long as there was no preach-

ing. Our U.S. Constitution guarantees such rights as freedom of assembly, religion, and speech.

The third incident took place on July 4 when a young Christian man attended a firework display in Clinton. After the event was over, he stood up on a small table he brought and began to preach as spectators were leaving. A policeman approached the young man and told him to get down. He refused to stop preaching and the police officer placed him under arrest. The Alliance Defense Fund sponsored his defense and at his court hearing the court threw the case out. Yes, the case was dismissed, but the legs that supported him in his preaching - freedom of speech and religion - were initially chopped off beneath him.

I close with a quote from Richard Land: "Whether or not America has a future worth having doesn't depend on what happens in Washington, D.C., or what happens in the Supreme Court or in the Congress. It depends on what happens with you, and people just like you; and your family, and families just like yours; and your church, and churches just like yours, with godly pastors after God's heart and church members thirsting for God's Word."

Now is the time...

Ca. considers bill to commemorate homosexual 'predator, sex addict'

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP) — A bill that would encourage California public schools to observe Harvey Milk Day and to remember the murdered homosexual leader with "commemorative exercises" passed the state Senate Tuesday and is heading to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who hasn't taken a position on it.

Schwarzenegger actually vetoed a similar bill last year but is under more pressure this year in light of U.S. President

Barack Obama recently awarding a Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Milk, the nation's first openly homosexual person elected to public office.

The California bill passed the state Senate, 22-14, and the state House of Representatives, 46-28, along party-line votes with Democrats in the majority.

Milk was a San Francisco city supervisor who was assassinated in 1978 in his City Hall

office by another supervisor. The fact that the big-studio, biographical movie, Milk, starring Sean Penn, was released last year only adds to the pressure on the governor.

The bill (S.B. 572) would commemorate Milk with what the state calendar calls a day of "significance." The only other such days are the Day of the Teacher (second Wednesday of May), John Muir Day (April 21), and California Poppy Day (April 6). Harvey Milk Day would be his birthday, May 22.

Schwarzenegger actually referenced the bill on his Twitter account days ago, writing, "Give me your thoughts on the water package, Harvey Milk Day, and the prison reform bill."

The California Family Council is urging Schwarzenegger to veto the bill and is warning it "would promote the controversial subject of sexual orientation in public school classrooms

with children as young as five years of age."

"It is expected that thousands of individuals will again seek the governor's veto," California Family Council director Ron Prentice said in a statement. "Commemorating Harvey Milk in public schools, primarily because of his sexual orientation, will go against the values of the majority of California's parents."

Individual schools and teachers could decide on their own whether to mark the day, although many certainly would. The text of the bill says "all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to observe." The bill says it would be appropriate to have "exercises remembering the life of Harvey Milk, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state."

State Sen. Mark Leno, a Democrat and the bill's sponsor, told The San Francisco Chronicle, "It should be kept in mind that he literally gave his life so I and others can serve in public office and that every generation of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and

transgender) Californians can pursue their every hope, dream and aspiration."

Randy Thomasson, an opponent of the bill and the president of SaveCalifornia.com, said Milk's sexual escapades make him unfit to be pushed as a role model. For weeks, Thomasson's press releases have quoted from The Mayor of Castro Street, a popular biography about Milk. Milk was 48 when he died but always had a desire for teen boys and men in their early 20s, the book says. He also advocated having multiple partners, it says.

"For the sake of impressionable children, the governor now has abundant reason to veto 'Harvey Milk Day' like he did last year," Thomasson said in a statement. "Reputable biographies demonstrate that Milk was a sexual predator of teens, a homosexual sex addict who advocated polygamous relationships, and a public liar who justified his deceit."

"Harvey Milk was and is a terrible role model for kids, including kindergartners who would be affected by this very bad bill."

CHRISTIAN BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS



ELLISVILLE, MS

601-477-2900

We Specialize in Churches

"Quality is not Expensive - Quality is Priceless"

LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.

BAPTISTRIES
WATER HEATERS
STEEPLES
CROSSES

TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Jordan

1. Pearl River Association will host its annual Women's Conference Sept. 26, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Kandi Anderson, speaker; Tonya Perniciaro, worship leader. Cost, \$10; to register, call (601) 798-2372. On Sept. 25, the association will also have a worship/Bible study, with potluck supper at 6 p.m. for more information, call (228) 669-3393.

2. Gumpond Church, Lumberton, is hosting its first annual archery shootout Oct. 10.

Qualifying rounds 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; top ten shooters, 2:30 p.m.; includes prizes, trophies, concessions, and categories for men, women, and youth. For more information, call (601) 916-2144.

3. Arlington Church, Beaumont, recognized Melbia Jordan Aug. 23 for her service as church clerk for 38 years, service in VBS for 45 years, and perfect Sunday School attendance for a total of 12 years.

4. Hurricane Creek Church, Sandy Hook, ordained Jason Regan as deacon Aug. 23. Shown are pastor Curtis Roland and Regan.

5. Tangipahoa Church, Summit, ordained Jamie Matthews to the ministry Aug. 30. Shown are Howard Smith, Matthews, Zack Matthews, Kristi Matthews, Mike Morris, and Kenneth Golman.

6. Branch Church, Scott County, recently held an old-fashioned day to celebrate its 100th anniversary. The celebration will continue with a worship service, Oct. 4, 10:30 a.m. Shown is Ray Murray giving some children and adults a ride on his mule-drawn wagon.

7. Longview Church, Starkville, recognizes its CIAs. Shown, front, are Koby Livingston and Kayla Walker; back, Kimberlyn Livingston and McKenzie Parrish.

8. Liberty Church, Jasper County, ordained Daniel Smith to the ministry Aug. 16. Shown are M.L. Wallace, Tommy Price, Sherry Smith, Smith, and Poul Smith.

9. West Marks Church, North Delta Association, had nine members to participate in World Changers, spending a week in Cornwall, Canada, roofing houses. Shown are the participants.

10. Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall, recently honored Kenneth Waters and his wife Faye with a lunch in celebration of fifty years of ministry. Shown are the Waters.

11. The men's ministry of Cartersville Church, Petal, is hosting a wild game ban-

quet Oct. 3, 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 545-1010 or visit www.cbpetal.org.

12. First Church, Hattiesburg, is holding its first worship service in its new worship center October 4. Last day at the downtown campus and dinner on the grounds, Sept. 27; church cookout/celebration at new campus, Sept. 30; fun run from the downtown campus to the Lincoln Road campus, Oct. 3; for more information, visit www.firsthattiesburg.com.



7. Longview Church, Starkville



4. Roland and Regan



8. Smith ordination



5. Matthews ordination



9. West Marks Church, North Delta



6. Branch Church, Scott County



10. The Waters



JUST FOR THE RECORD

3. **Vordaman Church, Kemper County**, is hosting a drug and alcohol awareness program Sept. 19, 6 p.m.; George Terry Sciples and Jason Smith, speakers; includes testimonies, praise, worship, and refreshments. Call (601) 479-5098 or 650-6051 for information.

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, is recognizing Lamar and Ann Callahan for 47 years of service to the music ministry Sept. 20, 5 p.m. Ronnie Cooper, pastor.

15. **First Church, Laurel**, will host Rick Burgess, co-host of the nationally syndicated Rick and Bubba Show, on Sept. 21, 6 p.m. Event is free; seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

16. **First Church, Jackson**, is sponsoring a community health fair Sept. 24, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., featuring flu shots, free vision, hearing, cholesterol, blood pressure, and other screenings. For more information, call Bruce Warf at (601) 949-1968 or email bwarf@fbj.org.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. The Lady Toppers of Blue Mountain College signed their first two softball players. Shelby Jackson, Mooreville, and Meggin Nelson, North Pontotoc, were the first two players to sign grants-in-aid with BMC, which will start its softball program in 2010 - 2011. Shown are Nelson, coach Kevin Barefield, and Jackson.



1. Nelson, Barefield, and Jackson

World Changers sets major changes

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) World Changers program will mark 20 years of ministry in 2010. Since 1990, some 288,000 students and their adult leaders have participated in the missions initiative to repair and rehabilitate some of the poorer neighborhoods of America.

While 2010 will be a year to celebrate how God has used World Changers over the years, it also is a year when NAMB leadership will make improvements to position the program for the future.

World Changers is a pre-packaged mission experience managed by NAMB, enabling students to donate a week of their summer working in conjunction with cities, churches, and community agencies to provide renovations at no charge to the low-income homeowners.

In Mississippi, the program's partner is the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

"We have made some decisions related to the schedule of the World Changers project week," reported John W. Bailey, NAMB's team leader for World Changers. "These changes are necessary to keep us in the position of being an effective partner with the SBC (Southern Baptist Convention) churches and entities we work with," Bailey said. "We want to continue to be effective, while at the same time be more efficient."

One of the major changes for 2010 is a city project schedule which will begin on Monday and end on Saturday, as opposed to the previous Saturday-to-Saturday format.



CHANGING THE WORLD — Stephen Kaerwer (left) and Audra Wisley, both of Richmond, Va., are two of some 288,000 students and adult leaders who have participated in the North American Mission Board's World Changers missions initiative since its launch almost 20 years ago. NAMB has announced some changes in the program for 2010, including a new schedule and prayer emphasis. (BP photo)

While the new schedule does not include a night off or the host church's Sunday services, Bailey said the change opens up new possibilities of ministry "to make sure that the local church connection is maintained."

"One night of the project will be set aside for participants to interact with their host church," Bailey said. "We will continue to partner with local churches in the project community to reach people for Christ. We are looking at some creative ways in which to do that."

Some of the ideas under consideration for the community focus night are block parties, servant evangelism, or other opportunities where World Changers

participants could plug into local churches' existing strategies.

Other than the new six-day schedule, Bailey said World Changers will continue to have the same look, feel, and experience that participants have come to expect over the years. Construction will continue to be the main ministry tool at project sites, and nightly worship will remain one of the highlights for students and adults.

Bailey also noted that World Changers intends to nurture "a new level of calling students to prayer. We can't wait to see what God will do as a result of thousands of students praying throughout the summer."

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Eastwood Church, Indianola**: Revival, Sept. 26 - 30; Sat., children in the morning, youth in the evening; Sun., morning and evening services; Mon. - Wed., evening services; Bart Latner, Joe Pate, Wayne Kimbrough, Robert Hanney, Thomas Bruce, and Tommy Williamson, speakers.

2. **Rocky Point Church, Leake Association**: Homecoming, Sept. 27, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Billy McKay, speaker. Marshall Lum, Pastor

3. **Zion Hill Church, Wesson**: Revival, Sept. 27 - Oct. 1; Sun., 6:45 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; David Douglas, speaker; David Montgomery, music; Tom McCormick, pastor.

4. **Maybank Church, Hattiesburg**: Revival, Sept. 20-23; Sun., Sunday School,

8:40 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; George Aultman, Gerald Penton, Jim Windham, Scott Murphy, speakers; John Greer, music; Jon Kittrell, pastor.

5. **Southside Church, Jackson**: 70th anniversary celebration, Sept. 20; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Jeff Parker, pastor.

6. **Linwood Church, Neshoba County**: Homecoming, Sept. 20; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Jimmy Breland, speaker; Mike Skinner, pastor.

7. **Fredonia Church, New Albany**: 136th homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 10 a.m., followed by potluck

meal; Ferrell Cork, speaker; Mitch Huskison, music.

8. **First Church, Fannin**: Revival, Sept. 20 - 23; Sun., 8:30, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jeff Brewer, David Rives, Steve Wilson, and Jon Daniels, speakers.

9. **Macedonia Church, Blue Mountain**: Homecoming and revival, Sept. 27 - 30; Sun. worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and singing with Forever Praise, 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Hamilton, speaker. Terry Hall, pastor.

10. **Damascus Church, Hazlehurst**: Homecoming, Sept. 27; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; David Patterson, speaker.

11. **Antioch Church, Union**: Homecoming, Sept. 27; 9:30 and 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and singing with Freedom Land, 1:30 p.m.; Mike Smith, speaker; Ray Spence, pastor.

12. **Lincoln Road Church, Hattiesburg**: Revival, Sept. 24 - 27; Thurs. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Charles Nail, speaker; Bob Thames, music.

13. **Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba**: Homecoming, Sept. 20; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Mike Ramage and pastor Rickey Harris, speakers; Janet Ramage and Lori Moore, music.

14. **New Home Church, Fulton**: Revival, Sept. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. -

Wed., 7 p.m.; Thomas Magers, speaker; Mike Warren, pastor.

15. **New Providence Church, Carthage**: Homecoming, Sept. 20; program at 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Bob Gross, speaker; Janice King and Pam Harris, music; Smith Sanders, pastor.

16. **Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle**: Homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Robert Walker, speaker; Ricky and Cheryl Martin and Family, music; Bobby Butler, pastor.

17. **Beulah Church, Lexington**: Homecoming, Sept. 27, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Mike Steen, speaker; Hammett family members and local talent, music.

India Christians arrested for providing 'allurement'

MUMBAI, India (BP) — Police in India's Karnataka state, accompanied by 10 Hindu extremists, arrested the Christian operator of a boys' hostel Aug. 28 after the extremists accused him and another Christian of offering food, shelter, education, and future job prospects as an "allurement" to convert to Christianity.

Hanuma Naik is also pastor of Indian Gypsy Works Fellowship. After his release on bail Aug. 29, Naik dismissed the allegations as fabricated, saying parents of the 42 students voluntarily sent their children, ages six to 19, to the hostel.

The parents had prior information and knowledge that Christian teachings are part of the program at the church-run hostel, popularly known as a "Christian Ashram," Naik said.

A local police official told the Compass Direct news service that Naik and another staff member of the hostel, Rama Naik, who also was arrested, had disclosed in voluntary written statements that another pastor, Madesh Kumar, was supplying them with books and other tracts. Naik said both he and Rama Naik were forced to sign blank sheets of paper at the police station.

The police official told Compass that Ramesh Kariyappa, a resident of Kumgal, on Aug. 28 filed a complaint of "forcible conversion" and using food and shelter as an allurement to convert. The police official went to the hostel, where 42 students mainly of the Lambani tribes are housed. He claimed the students were forced to pray to the biblical God, whereas Hindus "have gods like Hanuman and goddess Lakshmi."

The Christians were accused of having promised the parents of the boys that they would take care of all the children's needs for food, clothing, and education — a

potentially criminal activity under draconian "anti-conversion" laws in force in some Indian states, but not in Karnataka.

Such laws seek to curb religious conversions made by "force, fraud, or allurement," but human rights groups say Hindu nationalists invoke the laws to harass Christians with spurious arrests and incarcerations.

The Global Council of Indian Christians reported that three police officials arrived at Naik's church with 10 local Hindutva (Hindu nationalist) extremists. After falsely accusing the two Christians of fraudulently converting students to

Christianity, the extremists slapped Rama Naik repeatedly and questioned many of the children about hostel activities, their studies and families. Police took the two staff members into custody and confiscated Bibles and other Christian literature from the hostel.

Police took the two to the police station at 11 p.m. and charged them under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including "acts intended to outrage religious feelings by insulting its religion or religious beliefs" and "promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion."

Washington state voters to decide 'everything but marriage'

OLYMPIA, Wash. (BP) — Voters in Washington state this November apparently will get to decide whether to keep or overturn the state's same-sex, "everything but marriage" law, which grants homosexual couples all the legal benefits of marriage and which conservatives warn will lead to the legalization of full-fledged homosexual marriage.

The Washington secretary of state announced Monday that organizers of Referendum 71 had collected enough valid signatures to place it on the November ballot, capping a pro-family effort that surprised liberals and even some conservatives in its success. Democratic Gov. Christine Gregoire signed the bill into law in May, but it won't go into effect until voters have a say. Meanwhile, supporters of the new law have filed a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the signatures as illegal and keep the referendum off the ballot.

Washington state is one of five states to grant same-sex couples all the legal benefits of marriage, minus the name. It would be the first, though, to enact such a law and then reverse course.

Both sides expect an expensive, tough campaign — a campaign that will start with supporters and opponents clearing up confusion as to how their constituents should vote. A vote to approve Referendum 71 would keep the domestic partnerships law. A vote to reject the referendum would overturn the law. The confusion stems from the fact that the law (S.B. 5688) itself is on the ballot, and voters are being asked if they want to keep it. In other words, the same group that put the referendum on the ballot is now urging a "no" vote.

Protect Marriage Washington, the umbrella organization that organized the petition drive, collected 137,000 signatures in about 60 days. The secretary of state's office said Monday that 121,617 had been validated, roughly 1,000 more than needed.

The 112-page bill says that in interpreting state law, the benefits of marriage "shall be interpreted as applying equally" to domestic partnerships.

"We believe the institution of marriage is unique and is special, and it provides unique

benefits to society, and as such it should be treated uniquely by society," Joseph Backholm, executive director of the Family Policy Institute of Washington, told Baptist Press. His organization helped gather signatures for the referendum. "The law represents real threats to religious freedom by taking a moral position that there is no difference between homosexual and heterosexual relationships, and we believe that's inappropriate for the state to do."

"For those who will continue to believe there is a difference between homosexual and heterosexual relationships, we don't believe the law, in any way, shape or form, should punish them for those beliefs."

Scott Brewer of Redmond, Wash., said he will be voting to reject the new law because the issue is "not about bigotry against gays but about support for traditional marriage." Brewer is pastor of Meadowbrook Church, a congregation in Redmond affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Washington State's recent legislative effort known as S.B.

5688 claims that the intent is to expand benefits for domestic partnerships," Brewer told Baptist Press in an e-mail interview. "Many fair-minded citizens would agree that both heterosexual and homosexual relationships should enjoy the rights to visit a sick loved one in the intensive care unit of a hospital or pass on shared assets at the time of death... but S.B. 5688 goes beyond these ideas and contends (180 times in 112 pages) that 'marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships.' In other words this is a redefinition of marriage."

Although the state technically hasn't legalized homosexual marriage, Backholm warns that the new law would only make it easier to do so. He also calls the new law and any homosexual marriage law a "distinction without a difference."

"This law takes the moral position that there is no difference between the two," he said. "So if A equals B and B equals C, then A equals C."

"We know their ultimate goal is to have [gay marriage legalized] anyway, so this is just one of the debates in a bigger battle."



LAUGHTER AT STATE SENIOR ADULT RALLY

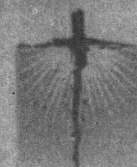
Al Stagg, a Christian comedian from Santa Fe, New Mexico, is shown portraying one of the many characters from his repertoire at the annual State Senior Adult Rally August 27 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. There were 531 participants at the rally, registering from 51 churches and representing 28 towns and cities in Mississippi. (Photo by Tony Martin)

STAFF CHANGES



1. Kellette and Sheehy

1. Calvary Church, Pascagoula has added two staff members: Jeremy Kellette, worship leader, and Meghan Sheehy, pianist. Shown are Kellette and Sheehy.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

The Baptist Record
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Your Margaret Lackey gifts allowed this boy to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the very first time.

WHEREVER HE LEADS

VISIT BEGINNINGS

Editor:
Mississippi Baptist Beginnings, an extensive historical exhibit, is located on U.S. Highway 61 approximately four miles south of Fayette and twenty miles north of Natchez. A paved drive enables visitors to view the sixteen informative, illustrated stations, either while driving or parked in spaces for cars or busses.

The exhibit tells the story of the first courageous, devoted, faithful Baptists to establish a church in a wilderness area in 1791 when President George Washington was in office. The hardships encountered by the South Carolina Baptists reveal a commitment that prevails to this day. Richard Curtis, the group leader, was resourceful and imaginative as he struggled with local Spanish leaders to gain permission to worship publicly.

A large cross, visible from the highway several yards from the exhibit, identifies the site before a motorist reaches the driveway.

A summer outing for a church group will be an ideal way to view this exhibit. Lunch in Natchez can be an optional feature of such a visit. Since the exhibit was dedicated last year, we have received several e-mail and phone messages complimenting the Mississippi Baptist Convention for developing this historical testimony to the devotion of Mississippi Baptists to the cause of Christ.

For additional information about the exhibit, please contact the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission at (601) 925-3434, or e-mail us at mbhc@mc.edu.

Edward McMillan, Exec. Sec.
Miss. Baptist Hist. Comm.
Clinton

CHAPLAINS NEEDED

Editor:
Chaplains are needed for the Mississippi State Guard (MSG). These MSG units train one Saturday each month at Camp McCain, near Grenada. The State Guard is a volunteer military reserve to the Mississippi National Guard. Personnel are paid only when mobilized by the Governor or Adjutant General. All MSG duty is within the borders of Mississippi. An accredited M.Div. or equivalent and ecclesiastical endorsement from the North American Mission Board are needed. Prior military service is preferred but not required. For more information, contact: CH (COL) Errol Simmons, MSG, e-mail: oesimmons@comcast.net.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

CH (COL) Errol Simmons
MSG Command Chaplain
Mississippi State Guard

UNIVERSAL PEN PALS

Editor:
Over the past 17 years, the Fellowship of Baptist Educators (FBE) has sponsored a missions activity among high school and middle school students, known as Christian Corresponders. The name of the project is changing to Universal Pen Pal Project in order to be more acceptable in countries where mission work is restricted. Over the years thousands of Christian young people have become pen pals with foreign students who are taking English.

Any Christian group (or individual) in grades seven-12 that would like to participate is invited to contact Kellie Ziesemer by

e-mail at universalpenpalproject@yahoo.com and send the following information:

- Name of church or group.
- Name, postal address, e-mail address, and phone number of leader.
- For each student participating, give name, gender, grade level (seven through 12) and e-mail address.

This information should be sent by October 15 if possible. For further information contact Kellie Ziesemer at the above e-mail address or by phone at (513) 732-2111.

John T. Carter, director
Christian Corresponders, FBE
Birmingham

THANKS FOR STUDENTS

Editor:
It was another awesome summer! We would like to thank Mississippi Baptists for sending students to be involved this summer through Nehemiah Teams. God used them to do some amazing things! There were over 120 students from 21 states among the unreached and hard-to-reach of eight countries.

Once again, Mississippi earns the award for the most students sent from a single state. Students representing your state were: Amanda Boling, Clayton Cooley, Josh Beckham, Sam Sullivan, Jordan Ingram, Kristin Bennet, Kate Poore, Scott Mathews, Brittany Allen, Justin Knight, Laura Bullock, Sydney Kirk, Cassie Clayton, Leah Shackelford, Aaron Ledbetter, Travis Roaten, Bruce Peters, Margaret Bean, Lizzy Gray, Kimi Denton, Bubba Boggs, Hunter Coy, Kyla Greer, Jessica Humphreys, Tina Register, Kayla Frazier, Matt Metcalf, Stephanie Hardin, Ashley Grant, Krista McFeeters, Derrika Odom, Heather Layton, Kelli Lennon and Barbara Marsh.

Eleven of these served as team leaders. You continue to send us quality students.

The Gospel was shared face-to-face with thousands of people. On our blog, www.nehemiahteams.blogspot.com, you can read stories on the ministries of the various teams. You can access more information on summer 2010 teams at www.nehemiahteams.com.

We feel called to lead this generation to help finish the Great Commission in this generation. For eight weeks, through Nehemiah Teams, students can be strategically involved in church planting. While on the field, they are involved in discipleship materials which confront the student with God's will for the nations.

Thank you again for your role in reaching the nations. Mississippi Baptists are awesome partners.

Jess and Wendy Jennings
www.nehemiahteams.com

WOMEN'S GIFTS

Editor:
In reading the article, Analysis: Is there a growing generation gap in the SBC?, by Will Hall, executive editor of Baptist Press (Aug. 20, pg 12), I think part of that answer lies in Hall's own statement, "The bottom line is, as much as Southern Baptists would like to have the loyalties of every young man graduating from our seminaries, some in every generation are bound to leave."

As the mother of a daughter who graduated from Golden Gate Seminary, I think Southern Baptists will continue to lose valuable young people (men and women) unless we change our attitude about women's place in the church and service to God. My daughter and her husband found a welcoming place and a chance to use their abilities in the Presbyterian church. They were not afforded this opportunity in the Southern Baptist culture. Southern Baptists have a long way to go in welcoming other races and cultures into our predominately white churches, and in accepting and using the gifts given to our women. If we do not do so, we and the people we are to reach are the real losers.

Patricia D. O'Quin
Tylertown

HEALTH REFORM

(Editor's note: The following letters are in response to a number of recent articles that have been published in *The Baptist Record*, as well as the *Practical Principles* feature of the *Miss. Baptist Christian Action Commission* published in the August 20 issue of *The Baptist Record*.)

Editor:
We do not want insurance companies telling our doctors how to treat us. Get the insurance companies out of our present and future health care plans. I'm for the public plan. I don't see why insurance companies should be in government and medicine. I live in Jackson, was born in the Piney Woods-Star area over 85 years ago, and am a Baptist from a Baptist-Presbyterian family.

La Rita Smith
Jackson

Editor:
I believe that there is a reason that the poor are mentioned more than 80 times in the Bible. To me it is to etch into our minds the needs of those who are in need. Jesus bathed the feet of a prostitute to illustrate that none of us is better than another. If you believe, prove it by caring for those in need. Work to help the passing of health care reform.

Mary Lou Payne
Jackson



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Mississippi Baptist Minister Hosts

Hawaii

Join Other Southern Baptists and Rev. Billy Williams
On His Sixth YMT Baptist Vacation Package!

Departs April 19, 2010 from \$1528*

Fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two nights on Maui, one night in Hilo and three nights in Kona, on the "big island" of Hawaii. Devotions will be available some days on tour, for those in the group who wish to participate. Sightseeing on every island includes: a Honolulu city tour with Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial; Kauai's Waimea riverboat cruise; Lao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina on Maui; and on the Big Island of Hawaii, a Hilo orchid garden, Rainbow Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more! YMT specializes in Hawaii and has had its own office in Honolulu since 1967. Prices are so affordable because travelers buy wholesale, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. Rev. Williams is semi-retired and has been serving for 49 years as a Baptist minister, 23 years of which he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Gautier, Mississippi. Currently he attends and is active in Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi. Friends and family are welcome! One does not have to be Baptist to join this group. Flights are available from through out the United States. *Price, per person, double occupancy, includes taxes, inter-island flights, hotels, baggage handling, and escorted sightseeing on every island. Airfare is extra; call for prices.

For brochure, information, reservations,
and letter from Pastor Williams, call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27

Clinton, MS 39060-0027

(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals want to say thank you to others through this service. It is a meaningful and lasting memory. This feature is carefully designed to honor and give with love and respect. The Village View has been an important part of the community for many years.

AUG. 18 - SEPT. 11, 2009

HONORS

Bro. Brian & Sarah Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Fielder
Mr. Mike Gardner & Crew
Rev. William B. Webb
Mr. Dan Halford
Ms. Leona H. Watts
Mr. Roy Halford
Ms. Leona H. Watts
Lillian Hayward
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil K. Nation
Chantel Lott
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil K. Nation
Walker Rives
Ms. Perry Anne Hayward

MEMORIALS

John & Pat
Ms. Maggie L. Mahaffey
Billy Ray Abron
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Boleware
Dorothy Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Callender
Mr. James Allen
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Leola Alvis
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Hickman
Mrs. Doris Aultman
Barbara Ann Denton
Mary Lou Lott
Wayne Badley
Mrs. Wayne Bagley
Buck D. Barry
Ms. Annette Brown
Ms. E. Frances Milam
Mr. & Mrs. Basil K. King
Mr. Tommy Ray Bass
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Mrs. Glenda Batson
Frances & Rich Defenbaugh

Richard E. Beaman
Adult 7 SSC, FBC-McComb
Mrs. Berneda Birdsong
Mrs. Kitty Bell
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Billy Ray Black, Sr.
Kenneth & Hope Hawkins
Evelyn Black
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents Jr.
James Boatright
Hopewells & Bob Hooker
John R. Boutwell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll
Mrs. Calvin A. (Dorothy) Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. Bert M. Campbell Jr.
Kristen Breakfield
Jeff & Rene Dungan
Mr. William Brewer
Central BC-Brandon
Dick Briscoe
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse P. Matthews Jr.
Gloria J. Broom
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Powell
Loyce E. "Red" Brown
Mildred Dugger
Mr. & Mrs. John Duncan
Mr. Thomas E. Bruton
Mr. & Mrs. David Furr
Mr. & Mrs. E. P. Lutken
Pembles & Peggy Davis
Mr. & Mrs. David Latham
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Link
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Woodruff
Edward & Cindy Shackelford
Donald Buckles
Stanton BC-Natchez
Mother of Larry Bullock
Don & Suzanne Honea
Mrs. Burnette
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen

Marie Cambol
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sledge
Mac Campbell
Mrs. Mildred Campbell
Jean Card
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Flemmons
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Holloway
Ricky Poe
Mrs. Dot Poe Ray
Mrs. Nell Carney
Mrs. Dorothy L. Walley
Gerald Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gneini
Mr. & Mrs. Harry O'Neal Jr.
Mrs. Mary B. Ratcliff
Cleveland
Willing Workers SSC, East Fork BC
Mr. Earl Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson
Mr. Bob Collier
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Grisham Sr.
Virginia Compton
Mr. & Mrs. Terry H. Blalock
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Parker
Sidney Cullifer, Jr.
Ms. Rebecca G. Cullifer
Sharon Cummins
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Rhymes Jr.
Mr. Charlie Dale
Mr. & Mrs. John Logan & Leigh
Betty Davis
Ms. Anne Wood
Joe Wayne Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Rodis L. Wheeler
Earline Dome
Temple BC-Grenada
Danny Dowdy
Mrs. Margaret Williams
Chubby Ellis
Mr. Rowe Rhett
Mary Ellen Ellis
Mrs. Edwina M. Wise
Royce Earl Ethridge
Louise Griffith
Terry Farmer
Employees of Herring Gas Natchez
Mr. Bethel Ferguson
Mrs. Agnes E. Pyron
Mrs. Rubie Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Mark Flemmons
Mildred Dugger
Mr. & Mrs. John Duncan
Mrs. Dot Poe Ray
Dorothy Jean "Dot" Williams
Flowers
Mid Continent Industrial Insulation
Ms. Evelyn W. Sanderford
Mr. T. Walker Hengst
Ms. Jennifer Hengst Grierson
Mr. V. Glenn Hengst
Mrs. Pamela P. Hengst
Cannon Chevrolet-Cadillac, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Blakley
Mr. & Mrs. George F. Ellis Jr.
Mr. Sam Makamson
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Barnett
Ms. Dorothy J. Box
Mrs. Rosa M. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter
Father of Leona Fortinberry
Don & Suzanne Honea
James E. Foster
Ms. Lynda L. Allen
Mrs. Nelda T. Franks
Mrs. Patty Tynes
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Mrs. Alma Lois Frazier
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Jamie French
Mrs. Hazel M. Poe
Geneva Gardner
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner

Hiram Gene Gatewood
Bob & Nellie Magee Family
Henry Gilreath
Mrs. Betty T. Horton
Mr. Houston Goodwin
Mr. Walter Barbee
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore III
Mrs. Annie Ruth Boswell
Grafton
Mrs. Louise M. Thompson
Ann & Jimmie Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Smiley
Sam Graham
Mrs. Bess Coker
Robert "Bob" Haley
Ruth SSC, FBC-McComb
Mrs. Dorothy Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DeLoe
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour Lipscomb
Bobby Hamil
Dr. Joe Collins SSC, FBC-Madison
Mrs. Evelyn Hamlett
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Sarah Lou Hammer
Mrs. June S. Stephenson
Dr. William Hand
Dr. & Mrs. Joe G. Collins
Susan Haskins & Carr Haskins
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Mote
Miss Susan C. Haskins
Adult 1 SSC, Calvary BC-Summit
Tom & Jane Walman
STATCare, P.L.L.C.
Adult 5 Men's SSC, FBC-McComb
Echo SSC, FBC-McComb
SW Miss Regional Med Ctr Employee
Trustmark National Bank-Jackson
Willing Workers SSC, Calvary BC
Mr. & Mrs. Venton R. Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Brock
Robby & Patsy Brock
Jodi & Jenny Brock
Robert & Patti Brock
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DeLee
Darrell, Carol, Ashley, Jake Easley
Ms. Judy Foreman
Mrs. Dorothy Gilbert
Mrs. Charles S. Greer
Mr. Wayne R. Hall
Karen Hammons & Parker
Rervy Hammons
Mr. & Mrs. Kendall Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Gary L. Jacobs
Mr. & Mrs. David Kavanay
Ms. Amanda Reece
Layton
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Lobrano
Marianna & Olivia
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Magruder
Ms. Kathy Dee Patrick
Ms. Jerolyn R. Price
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Robinson
Ms. Pamela L. Spiers
Mary Allen & Ric Vamell

Mrs. Barbara S. Burris
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour Lipscomb
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Mize
Pearl Heard
Ms. Ellen Matthews
Elaine Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring Jr.
Mary Lois Heslep
Ike & Florine Collins
Sarah Higgins
Harry Neal & Weezie Corder
Mr. James Hitt
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Callender
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Balfour Holloway, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.
Chester Holloway
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Card
Mrs. Doris Hooks
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Woodward
Mrs. Martha Huggins
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins

John Hughes, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Pullen
Gerald Irwin, Jr.
Middle Married SSC, Weir BC
Mrs. Jarnison
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Wasson
Alicia A. Jewell
Rev. & Mrs. Sonny Jewell
Florene Rhodes Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. John Logan & Leigh
Wynn Johnson
Mrs. Addie M. Holloway
Deloris Joiner
Paul & Lavenia Bullard
Yvonne Jones
Jeff & Rene Dungan
Reggie Kendall
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby W. Dye
Charles King
Fidelis SSC, Morrison Heights BC

FALL PROJECT IDEAS

Collect long-distance calling cards for the children to use to stay in touch with their families while in care of The BCV. Mail cards to P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027.

Collect cleaning supplies and paper products for a campus nearest you. We are doing our fall cleaning and getting ready for cooler weather to come to Mississippi. We need your help to provide cleaning supplies this fall and throughout the year to one of our seven campuses located in the following counties: Hinds, Lincoln, Marion, Stone, Tate, Winston & Yalobusha. Supplies may be delivered to a campus any weekday between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. All visitors coming after hours and on weekends must be scheduled in advance. Please call 601-922-2242 or email bcv@baptistchildrensvillage.com for more information or to schedule a visit.

BRING THE BCV TO YOUR CHURCH

As you plan your upcoming meetings and events for this fall and even throughout the year, please think of The Baptist Children's Village. We appreciate every opportunity to share with people face-to-face about God's work in this ministry to children. We can bring your group insight and encouragement as we talk about the exciting future of The Baptist Children's Village and its roll in meeting the needs of families throughout Mississippi. To schedule a speaker, call 601-922-2242 or email bcv@baptistchildrensvillage.com

Christian Concert Ticket Sponsors

In the next few months there are several contemporary Christian music groups coming to Mississippi in concert. The music these groups perform is the kind our residents enjoy, but at the same time it is wholesome music with the truth and message of Jesus Christ that the residents desperately need reinforced in their lives. Some of the groups coming are Mercy Me, Casting Crowns, etc. We need sponsors to help cover the expense of the tickets. Please send your monetary gifts for these events to The Baptist Children's Village, P.O. Box 27, Clinton MS 39060. Please note in the memo of your check: Concerts. For more information please call 601-922-2242 or email bcv@baptistchildrensvillage.com

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Challenges of Knowing Jesus

Mark 6:1-6, 45-52, 7:8-9, 13

By Ken Anderson

Each year The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve conducts their Toys for Tots campaign. They collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children. But during the Christmas season of 2006 the campaign rejected a donation of 4,000 toys. These toys were unwrapped battery operated, talking representations of Jesus Christ. They rejected the Jesus dolls because they feared they could be offensive to some, and were not considered fun toys for children. But later they accepted the toys (www.Christianitytoday.com, 11-16-06). In this lesson Jesus is rejected by his hometown, feared by his disciples, and criticized by the religious establishment.

Rejected - 6:1-6: The setting for Christ's rejection was his hometown. Jesus was in the

synagogue on the Sabbath, as was His custom. Again He was invited to read and expound the scriptures. The congregation initially acknowledged the wisdom of Jesus' teaching but their astonishment soon turned to unfavorable criticism. Why? In Luke's account of this incident, Jesus read from Isaiah 62:1-2 (Luke 4:17-18), a widely-known Messianic passage. Then Jesus interpreted the passage, "... today the scripture is fulfilled."

Their knowledge of Jesus did not match His reputation. They knew Him too well. His family heritage, occupation, and education could not satisfy their expectations of the Messiah. Therefore, His authority and miracles were bogus and deceptive. As a result of their rational thinking they were "offended." This word "offended" means to "trip," "stumble" or "ensnare"; the congregation was ensnared, stum-



Anderson

bled over the true identity of Jesus. "The word is also a member of a word group which in English 'scandal' is derived" (James A. Brooks, The New American Commentary, p. 99). There is the old adage that familiarity breeds contempt, but

familiarity breeds rejection also. This account ends with the word unbelief (Vs. 6a). Jesus continued to marvel at their lack of faith.

Feared - 6:45-52: The backdrop for these verses was the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. The response of the crowd was to make Jesus their earthly king (John 6:15). In response to their intent, Jesus immediately dismissed the crowd and compelled the disciples to leave by boat for Bethsaida. Then Jesus spent time in fervent prayer. Meanwhile, the disciples' trip was interrupted by strong headwinds, so much so that they were distressed, straining at the oars, making no progress. It was between 3:00 and 6:00 a.m. (the fourth watch), when

Jesus came to them walking on the water. The disciples cried, screamed, or shrieked with fear. They understood that they had seen a ghost because people do not walk on water. Their fear was symptomatic of a lack of faith and failure to comprehend the meaning of the feeding of the five thousand. They had not yet grasped Jesus' true identity.

Criticized - 7:8-9, 13: The scribes (the legal experts) joined the Pharisees in observing Jesus' activities. They took a sufficient amount of time to observe the disciples' habit of eating without washing their hands. The issue was not hygiene or sanitation, but the disregard for the oral traditions of the elders. These oral traditions applied to the smallest detail of conduct of a person's life. So much so that they totally overshadowed the Commandments of God and became a substitute for them.

The intent of washing rituals was to purify a person for the service and worship of God. Of course this was hypocritical and useless (Mark 7:6-7). Christ referred to other

washing rituals as examples of entrenched man-made traditions that deposed God's commandments.

Insights: Some traditions are good. Jesus was a traditionalist. He came to preserve and fulfill the Law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets (Matt. 5:17-18). He was for traditional marriage (Mark 10:5-9). But traditions for their own sake can be bad. Over time some church traditions can eclipse the progress of the gospel.

Rejection can hurt deep and give rise to the temptation to quit. This is often true especially when the rejection comes from people close to you. Jesus was no stranger to rejection. But regardless of His disapproval rating by the hometown folks, "... He went about the villages in a circuit teaching" (vs. 6a-KJV). Jesus did not quit. When faced with rejection these are words of encouragement for believers - don't quit - remain faithful.

Anderson is Transitional Pastor, Tremont First Baptist Church, Tremont

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God Is Faithful

Psalms 105-106

By Ginger M. Caughman

"Let the words of the Psalms wash over you and experience the joy of just being with words!"

As a child Kathleen Norris thought church was wearing Sunday clothes and singing! She left her Christian upbringing for over twenty years but now has written candidly about her experiences and especially about the Psalms!

"You come to the Bible's great 'book of praises' through all the moods and conditions of life and you sing anyway. To your surprise, you find that the psalms do not deny your true feelings but allow you to reflect on them. The psalms are always instructing the heart" ("The Cloister Walk," Norris, pp. 92, 93, 101).

Psalms 105. Our Lord God made us in His image to have fellowship with Him (vv. 1-3). God is faithful and had a Covenant relationship with His people. (vv.

8-10). We have referred to many instances in Scripture of "remember." Here the word remember (v. 8) implies action. Over and over God had affirmed His faithfulness to Israel.

Review Israel's history: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph. "Joseph was the advance guard and pioneer for the whole clan. His brethren sold him, but God sent him" (Charles Spurgeon). God was faithful throughout Israel's history in spite of their repeated unfaithfulness.

While writing about the famous encounter of Moses at the flaming bush, I believe the remarks of Dr. Kennedy (long time professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) could also apply to all the Old Testament history and specifically the history recounted in the pair of Psalms in this week's focus. "There's remarkable mir-



Caughman

roring of our own deep spiritual struggles and vivid reflections of our own fierce conflicts. Indeed there's opportunity for a better understanding of ourselves, but also for a larger appreciation of God's dealings with us. Taken seriously, these lessons speak directly

to the need for a clearer sense of the divine purpose in our life and full obedience to our calling in Jesus Christ our Lord" (James Hardee Kennedy, "The Commission of Moses and the Christian Calling," Eerdmans, 1964, p. 13).

Psalms 106 is a companion to Psalm 105. The two form a pair called the Hallelujah Hymns. God is faithful in contrast to Israel's rebellious actions. God's people are forgetful. This Psalm begins and ends with "Hallelujah! Praise to the Lord!" (vv. 1 and 48). "The space in between these two descriptions of praise is filled with the mournful details of Israel's sin and the extraordinary patience of God.

We do well to bless the Lord both at the beginning and the end of our meditations when sin and grace are the theme" (Spurgeon).

Confess unfaithfulness: An angry God still considered Israel "His people." As such they were to be set apart, different, from those around them. A friend reading in the Psalms commented, "But there is so much war and fighting and military action." Hebrew scholars tell us "for all the military metaphors employed in the Old Testament, the command that Israel receives most often is to SING!" (Kathleen Norris, p. 155). What a stunning statement. Sing!

Even when God was continually faithful throughout their history, His chosen people were continually unfaithful! Many blessings were missed because of disobedience.

God's mercy is amazing. Jim and Carol Cymbala have been faithful to God and blessed in their ministry in the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City. In her book, "He's Been Faithful," Carol has written: "The evidence of God's faithfulness in our lives

has been so real that neither Jim nor I have been tempted to explain away His promises. We're still counting on His Word to mean exactly what it says, because He continues to place us in situations where we have no choice but to rely on him as our prayer-answering God" (Cymbala, Zondervan, 2001, p. 61). Carol's song, "He's Been Faithful to Me" has helped people around the world. Someone told them, "The song has been like an anchor holding me in place when everything around was falling apart." Carol said the "song of hope was born in the midst of my pain" (Cymbala, p. 141).

Isaac Watts' stately hymn (1719) sings truth in our hearts: "O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home!" Did you know: "God rejoices over you with singing!" (Zephaniah 3:17). What a delightful promise of God's love and faithfulness!

Caughman is a member of First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Wildlife experiences leading youth to ponder God

EATONTON, Ga. (BP) — Since the end of turkey season, 12-year-old Brittini Doster has been counting down the days until deer season, filling the time in between fishing. All the while, she's gained a new perspective.

"It's helped me get closer to God," Brittini said. "Being outdoors helps you be more focused on listening. It's been really cool."

Brittini's new interests have been sparked by God's Great Outdoors Ministry. Founder Brad Gill, a member of Crossroads Church in Eatonton, Ga., where Brittini's father Scott is associate pastor, sees the outdoors as something sorely missing in the lives of today's youth — not to mention a path to a deeper relationship with Christ.

"This is an outreach to kids who need Jesus Christ in their hearts," Gill said. "It's also for those who are Christians, but need a solid foundation on which... to make sure they mature into Christian adults and share the message of Christ."

Gill's passion for the outdoors began at age three when his dad handed him a rod and reel for his first taste of fishing. Squirrel hunting came at age 14, soon followed by treks for deer and rabbit.

At no other time, however, have children and teens had such a wealth of options to keep

them from the outdoors. A national survey conducted every five years by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed a decline among six to 15-year-olds hunting and fishing to 33% in 2000 and 30% in 2005. There was a steady climb during the 1980s, starting at 34% and ending the decade at 39%. The rise continued until 1995 — around the time the Internet came about.

A much-ballyhooed article among outdoors enthusiasts by Sports Illustrated last Thanksgiving (How the decline of hunting is changing the natural order, Nov. 24) pointed out states' recent efforts to reintroduce hunting among youth. In Alabama, deer season opens two days early for children under the age of 16 accompanied by an adult.

In Maine, the same push is called Youth Deer Day. In Illinois and California, wildlife managers have begun reaching out to the fatherless by offering single moms hunting lessons.

Gill launched God's Great Outdoors Ministry with a turkey hunt in March. Next came a catfishing trip in April in which 30 youth caught 600 pounds of fish, half of which was then used to feed more than 200 appreciative people at a church fish fry. A trout fishing trip followed. "There will be a campout at the church Oct. 30. We'll have plenty of food and



REAL LUNKER — Brittini Doster (right), 12, stands with a trout she caught during a trek with God's Great Outdoors Ministries, based at Crossroads Church in Eatonton, Ga. Beside her is Seth Brooks, a member of Bethlehem Church in Clarksville, Ga., whose family owns the land along the Soque River. (BP photo)

an opportunity to minister to them Friday evening," Gill said. "We'll hunt Saturday and on Sunday have church followed by a big lunch and prize giveaways. Crossroads' homecoming is that weekend, so we're going to have a great time."

God's Great Outdoors Ministry already has seen an

impact beyond youth, when one participant's father became intrigued with what his son was learning through the outreach. Having self-admittedly "run from the Lord" for 30 years, he eventually prayed for salvation and was baptized to a standing ovation this spring.

Gill regards the time outside as important for youth as actually catching fish or bagging a turkey, if not more so. "There's just something about hunting and fishing that brings me closer to God," he said. "It's life's downtime — a chance to reflect on what He's done in my life."

Culture Digest: Evangelist wins case, Bud targeting colleges

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Jesse Morrell, a 24-year-old with a ministry of traveling to college campuses to preach the Gospel, has won a settlement with the city of New Haven, Conn., to resume calling students to repentance on the streets near Yale University in New Haven, Cn.

In 2004, when Morrell was still a teenager, he tried to express his faith vocally at four different locations on public streets outside nightclubs in New Haven. Each time, police officers warned him he would be arrested if he continued, and one even ripped the wire from his tape recorder after he informed the officer that he was documenting the confrontation.

The officers told Morrell that club patrons had complained about his preaching and said his speech was "annoying," thereby violating the local noise ordinance. In 2005, Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) filed a lawsuit against the New Haven police, citing the First Amendment.

"Christians shouldn't be penalized for expressing their beliefs," Jonathan Scruggs of ADF said. "Police cannot silence citizens because they or others think their message is 'annoying.' All Americans are free to peacefully exercise their First Amendment right to free speech on a public sidewalk. Those rights must be protected, or we're all in trouble."

On Aug. 17, the city of New Haven agreed to a consent order that will allow Morrell to share his faith on the sidewalk without fear of harassment or arrest.

Alan Sears, also of ADF, noted that regardless of whether people approve of the style or message Morrell employs, he has the right to speak.

"Not even all Christians feel comfortable with some of those who proclaim the Gospel in public places, but the right to speak openly about our faith is more important than personalities or personal preferences and comfort zones," Sears wrote in an Aug. 25 ADF news release.

Morrell, whose ministry is called Open Air Outreach, travels the country sharing the Gospel through tracts and Bible distribution as well as personal conversations and open air preaching. Some describe his message as edgy because he specifically calls homosexuals, drunkards, pornographers, and others to repentance.

His own testimony includes a history of drug use, drug trafficking, and larceny — all before he was 16. It was during rehabilitation as a 15-year-old that he heard the Gospel message and accepted Christ as his Savior, committing his life to helping others find freedom.

A YouTube video shows Morrell preaching near the campus of the University of Texas in Austin, where a student holding an open Bible asks

him to read Matthew 7:1-5. Morrell quotes the passage and then asks the gathered students if they know what it means.

"It means hypocrites cannot judge," Morrell said. "If you have a log in your eye, you cannot judge. So like I said, if I was out getting wasted and smashed, I can't judge you guys for getting wasted and smashed because I have a log in my own eye, but since Jesus took the log out of my eye, I can see clearly to help remove the speck that's in your own."

Bud targets colleges using school colors

Several college administrators are upset over a campaign by Anheuser-Busch called "Fan Cans," which features beer cans mimicking the school colors of 27 universities around the nation.

Near Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, the cans are purple and gold. Near Iowa State University in Ames, they're red and gold. The Wall Street Journal reported that the campaign is renewing the debate over the role of beer makers in encouraging college drinking.

Some administrators are demanding that the sales be stopped because the promotions could contribute to underage drinking and binge drinking and give the impression that the schools are endorsing the beer. Even the Federal Trade Commission has expressed disapproval of

Anheuser-Busch's effort at reviving Bud Light, whose sales are expected to register the first annual decline in its 27-year-history.

"Our concern about the campaign is that when you're talking about a college campus, you're talking about a population of many underage students, and you're adding to it a population of mostly binge drinkers," Janet Evans, an attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, said. "It was not the most responsible thing to do."

Tammy Purves, spokesperson for the Collegiate Licensing Co., which represents about 200 colleges, said they have complained to Anheuser-Busch about potential trademark violations. As many as 25 schools with the group have formally asked the brewer to stop the campaign, she told ABC News.

Companies support Homosexual events

PepsiCo and a number of other major corporations were instrumental in forming Chicago's "Citywide Pride," a coalition of companies partnering during Pride Month (June) to celebrate diversity in the workplace.

"In particular, the [Citywide Pride] consortium strives to educate and empower the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) workforce and their allies. A wide array of LGBT focused educational

and celebratory events are held throughout the month," the group's website said.

PepsiCo, listed on the sponsors webpage for Citywide Pride, was joined by Hyatt Hotels & Resorts, JPMorgan Chase, Orbitz, and several other companies in hosting Family Pride at the Museum of Science and Industry, one of a dozen-plus homosexual-oriented events in Chicago during June.

"It will be a time for the LGBT community to celebrate with their family and friends at one of the greatest venues in Chicago," and. Lunch and general admission will be provided," the webpage noted.

According to the American Family Association, which launched a boycott of PepsiCo earlier this year, Philene Frazar of PepsiCo said at a homosexual advocacy conference earlier this year that the company regularly recruits and invites employees from smaller companies to attend gay pride parades.

"It really is a true celebration of the entire community when PepsiCo steps out to be a part of a parade," Frazar said. "In most of these cities, we are giving out a sampling of all our product lines, which are as diverse as Tropicana juice, all the way to Frito-Lay chips. We also hand out cups and banners and whistles. It's really a true corporate presence once we hit the parade route."